

EASTER CRUISE TO PORT BROWNING

The Easter Cruise to Port Browning hosted by Karen and Kim Laidlaw, was an intimate affair with only 3 boats participating: Lorne and Colleen Shantz on *Shaunsea*; Lyall, Perry, Callah and Seija Ruehlen, along with Bella aboard *Inside Passage*; and Karen and Kim Laidlaw on *Nest Egg*. The Ruehlen's got a jumpstart on the weekend when they headed for Poet's Cove on Thursday and enjoyed the pool and amenities for 2 nights. Colleen and Lorne got an early start on Friday morning and had smooth trip over to Port Browning. On the other hand, Kim and Karen got a later start and as a result endured a lumpy ride over and an exciting docking experience that saw *Nest Egg* doing a 360 in the slip. The guy in the neighbouring boat had an OMG!-look on his face but thanks to a flurry of help on the dock, there was a happy ending and *Nest Egg* ended up safe and sound in her slip. A small potluck gathering was held on *Nest Egg* on Friday evening.

Saturday morning dawned sunny and warm. As we were enjoying a leisurely morning, *Inside Passage* arrived at the Port Browning Marina. Most of the group headed to the Driftwood Centre to browse the shops and enjoy the Easter weekend activities on Pender Island.



Callah and Seija participated in the Pender Easter Egg hunt while Lorne, Colleen, Kim, and Karen enjoyed lunch at one of the local restaurants. Since it was opening weekend at the Sea Star Winery, Kim and Karen decided to check out some of the new vintages. It is a 4 km hike from Port Browning so they were more than little thirsty when they arrived at the winery. They sampled a selection of Sea Star's wines and then enjoyed a glass of wine on the terrace

overlooking Navy Channel. But, all good things must come to an end and then it was a 4 km hike back to the marina. Hint from the staff at Sea Star Winery: if you take your dinghy from Port Browning, dock it at the Municipal Dock and walk from there, you can cut the walking distance in half.

Saturday evening the group gathered on *Shaunsea* for potluck appies which included a fabulous Easter Bunny bread created by Callah, Seija, and Perry Ruehlen.



Following Happy Hour, finishing touches were put on dinner and then everyone congregated on Inside Passage for delicious food and lively conversation.



As the evening was winding down, there was one last thing to remember. Callah and Seija radioed the Easter Bunny to let him know that he would find them in Port Browning Marina.

The next morning, *Nest Egg* and *Shaunsea* cruised back to Salt Spring while *Inside Passage* stayed on to enjoy the remainder of the Easter weekend on the water.